Statutory Development Boards

5786. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK :
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to State :

(a) the number of Statutory Development Boards in the country accorded recognition so far;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposals for the formation of more such boards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d). The Ministry of Home Affairs do not coordinate any information relating to development bodies set up under state legislation. As far as the Government of India is concerned, article 371(2) of the Constitution envisages special responsibility of the Governor for the establishment of separate development boards for Vidharbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra and Saurashtra, Kutch and the rest of Gujarat. No development board has been set up so far. The Government of Maharashtra have sent proposals at different points of time. These require indepth examination from different angles, including legal and constitutional, before a final decision is taken.

Mishaps in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

5787. SHRI M.V.V.S.MURTHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to State :

(a) the number of mishaps occurred in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant so far and the number of persons killed/incapacitated; and

(b) the reasons for such mishaps and the remedial measures taken to prevent recurrence of such mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) the first major unit of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant viz. Coke Oven Battery No.1 was commissioned on 5.9.1989. Since then there have been 544 accidents. Out of them, 4 were fatal accidents, 441 were reportable* accidents and 99 non-reportable accidents. No person was incapacitated permanently.

(b) The causes of the accidents were mainly due to collusion with objects/machinery, exposure to hot steam/Gas, fall from heights etc.

The Plant is now maintaining a well-equipped Safety Department with 9 Safety Engineers and 16 staff members like Safety Inspectors etc. Use of safety appliances such as Helmets, Shoes, Safety belts etc. is enforced. Besides, intensive site inspections are carried out to eliminate unsafe conditions of work. 20 Departmental Safety Committees and Safety Advisory Committees at the APEX level with workers participation have been organised. All accidents major and minor are investigated and remedial action taken.

Development of Agriculture

5788. SHRI V.S.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch new schemes for the development of agriculture in the country;

*Reportable accidents are those where the injured exployee is unable to attend duties for more than 2 days.